

Message Text

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43 41
ACTION ARA-06

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P 091650Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7968

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER
SUBJ: HOUSING FOR BNC DIRECTOR

FOR ACKERMAN FROM CHARGE

REF: LA PAZ 6075, 5995, 5885
USIA 21609, 21139, 20830

1. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WE BEGAN LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT IN DOWNTOWN LA PAZ FOR THE INCOMING BNC DIRECTOR, THEODORE A. BOYD. USIS LA PAZ HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER A HOUSE OR AN APARTMENT WAS TO BE LEASED. THE PAO AT THAT TIME REQUESTED AN APARTMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY'S GENERAL SERVICES

OFFICER SUGGESTED THE APARTMENT WHICH WAS NEAR THE BINATIONAL CENTER AND, ON THE SURFACE, SEEMED ACCEPTABLE. THE PAO PERSONALLY VISITED AND INSPECTED THE APARTMENT AND PRONOUNCED IT SUITABLE. THE LEASE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED THREE-AND-A-HALF MONTHS AGO.

2. WHEN THE BOYDS ARRIVED IN JULY AND OCCUPIED THE APARTMENT, THEY FOUND IT TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR A FAMILY, PARTICULARLY ONE WITH A FOUR-MONTH OLD BABY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BEDROOMS ARE SO SMALL THAT ONLY A BED CAN BE ACCOMMODATED

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ADEQUATELY. OTHER PIECES OF FURNITURE, IF PLACED IN BEDROOM,

MAKE IT SO CROWDED AS TO BE VIRTUALLY USELESS, I.E.
PASSAGE IS IMPEDED AND DRAWERS CANNOT BE COMPLETELY OPENED.
ADDITIONALLY, SINCE IT IS ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR OF A 16-STORY
BUILDING, THERE IS NO SPACE FOR LAUNDRY FACILITIES.
THE ONLY WAY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INSTALL A WASHING MACHINE

IS TO PUT IT IN A HALLWAY, UNSUITABLE FROM ANY STANDPOINT.
THERE IS NO SPACE AT ALL FOR A DRYER WHICH, I BELIEVE YOU
WILL AGREE, IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR A FAMILY WITH A NEW
BORN BABY.

3. WHILE BOYD WILL OF COURSE NOT HAVE HEAVY REPRESENTATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES, HIS PRESENT LIVING AREA DOES NOT PERMIT
HIM TO SATISFY EVEN MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS. THE DINING ROOM,
FOR EXAMPLE, WILL SEAT COMFORTABLY ONLY THREE PERSONS.
FURTHER, THE KITCHEN IS SMALL EVEN BY LOCAL STANDARDS AND
TOTALLY UNSATISFACTORY. HIS QUARTERS, COMPARED TO THOSE OF
SINGLE PERSONNEL IN BOLIVIA, ARE SUBSTANDARD. THE EMBASSY
HAS DECLARED APARTMENTS OF THIS SIZE UNSUITABLE FOR OCCUPANCY
BY SECRETARIES OR OTHER SINGLE PERSONS AT THIS HARSH POST.

4. BOYD HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO DROP THIS LEASE AND
OBTAIN OTHER QUARTERS WHICH ARE MORE EXPENSIVE, ALBEIT STILL
WITHIN EMBASSY RENTAL GUIDELINES FOR HIS GRADE. HIS REQUEST
HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN BY USIA. USIA SEEMS TO HAVE ASSUMED
THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF PERSONAL PREFERENCE ON BOYD'S PART.
THIS IS TRUE ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT HE WISHES TO OBTAIN
ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR HIS FAMILY COMPARABLE TO THAT PROVIDED
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION AND WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO
INVITE GUESTS IN THE COURSE OF HIS WORK. AT THE PRESENT TIME,
ALL OF THESE REQUISITES ARE DENIED HIM. USIA HAS OFFERED HIM
THE CHOICE OF STAYING WHERE HE IS OR FINDING QUARTERS ON HIS
OWN UNDER THE POST HOUSING ALLOWANCE. PRESENT POST HOUSING
ALLOWANCES WILL, HOWEVER, GENERALLY COVER ONLY THE RENT
AND NOT UTILITIES. THIS WOULD IN EFFECT PLACE HIM ALONE AMONG
STATE/AID/USIS PERSONNEL IN PRIVATELY LEASED HOUSING WITH
OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURES FOR HIS QUARTERS AND THIS IS
INCONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY FOR THE MISSION. PRESENT PAO,
JOHN SCAFE, IS SENDING HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSONAL IMPACT
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OF THIS SITUATION ON BOYD (LA PAZ 6235).

5. AS STATED IN OUR POST DIFFERENTIAL REPORT, LA PAZ IS
CONFINING PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY, AND THE EFFECTS
OF THIS ISOLATION ARE DEVASTATING ON MORALE WHEN COMBINED
WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE ALTITUDE AND OTHER DAILY FRUSTRATIONS.
IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT
THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE US GOVERNMENT WILL BE SERVED BY

PERMITTING THE POST TO GIVE UP THIS GROSSLY INADEQUATE
APARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING LEASED QUARTERS FOR THE BOYDS IN
LINE WITH THOSE OCCUPIED BY OTHER MISSION PERSONNEL.
(FYI: MRS. BOYD HAS INTIMATED THAT DISCRIMINATION MAY BE
INVOLVED IN THIS SITUATION. END FYI.)

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INTERCESSION WITH THE APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS IN USIA TO OBTAIN A REASSESSMENT OF THIS PROBLEM AND
APPROVAL FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION THAT WILL NOT PENALIZE
THE BOYD FAMILY.

PARKER

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